United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, extends mandate of UNAVEM II until 31 May; decides not to impose, at present, extra sanctions against UNITA.

+ International observers report sharp increase in violence in Haiti, including 21 assassinations in last two weeks; supporters of President Aristide targeted.

+ Secretary-General meets with Chilean President in Santiago; says Chile's political and economic progress demonstrate link between peace, democracy and development.

+ Somali leaders General Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed meet in Kenya under aegis of Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative for Somalia.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia excluded from participation in meeting of States parties to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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The Security Council decided last night to extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 31 May and not to impose, at present, extra sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). In unanimously adopting resolution 903 (1994), the Council reiterated its readiness to consider further sanctions or to review existing ones in light of progress in talks between the Angolan Government and UNITA. It strongly urged both parties, and in particular UNITA, to exercise maximum flexibility and good faith at the current crucial stage of negotiations.

The Council said it was ready, in principle, to consider promptly authorizing a strengthening of UNAVEM II to its previous level, if the parties reached an agreement. The Council invited the Secretary-General to proceed with contingency planning in that regard and to report to it by 4 April.

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The Council also demanded an end to offensive military action in Angola, and called on the Government and UNITA to achieve a sustainable cease-fire and a peaceful settlement without delay. It further called on them to guarantee unimpeded access for humanitarian aid and asked the international community to respond generously to the 1994 inter-agency appeal for Angola.

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Recent reports from the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) have indicated an alarming increase in violence in that country, a United Nations spokesman said today. Between 1 and 15 March, observers from the joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) Mission investigated 21 cases of assassination. The victims included ordinary citizens and members of trade unions and of popular movements. Many of those killed had been supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

There are currently about 37 international observers in Port-au-Prince, of whom half are from the United Nations and half from the OAS, the spokesman noted.

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On the first full day of his official visit to Chile, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this morning with the country's President, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle. At a luncheon given in his honour by the President, the Secretary-General expressed thanks for Chile's support for the United Nations, noting that the country was host to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). He also paid tribute to Chile's peaceful transition to democracy and to its dynamic economy. Those achievements clearly demonstrated the link between peace, democracy and development, which provided the only sure basis for international peace and security, he said.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa and discussed, among other issues, Chile's participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations, restructuring and expansion of the Security Council, and the 1995 Social Development Summit in Copenhagen.

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General Mohamed Farah Aidid of the Somali National Alliance (SNA) and Ali Mahdi Mohamed of the United Somali Congress (USC) met today in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting took place in the hotel suite of the Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative for Somalia, Lansana Kouyate. It was the first time the two Somali political leaders had met since Decembr 1992.

A spokesman for the United Nations Opertation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) welcomed the meeting, and said it was encouraging that the two leaders could put aside their differences and start a dialogue. He noted that General Aidid had also met with repesentatives of several other Somali factions in the last four days.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has been excluded from participating in the thirteenth meeting of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The States parties took that action at Headquarters yesterday, by approving an exclusion motion made by Bosnia and Herzogovina. Fifty-one States voted in favour of the motion, while the Federal Republic was alone in voting against it. There were 20 abstentions.

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Albania questioned the Federal Republic's claims of automatic succession to the international rights and obligations of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They said no agreement had been reached on succession to those rights. The Yugoslav representative strongly objected to his country's exclusion from the meeting, saying it was inconsistent with the International Covenant. He stressed that the denial of the Federal Republic's legitimate right to participate meant it would no longer be bound to observe or participate in the Covenant.

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Correction:

In the Daily Highlights of Wednesday, 16 March, the first sentence in the paragraph at the bottom of page 1 should have read: "The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced today that a team of its inspectors had not been allowed to carry out some important inspection measures at the radiochemical laboratory in Nyongbyon during its recent two-week visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

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